

FOUND RECORDS CTR
3737-90016

AR3009

MEMO TO FILE

10 June 1960

SUBJECT: APPARENT FISH KILL IN LAURITZEN CANAL OF RICHMOND HARBOR
ON 10 JUNE 1960

At 1045 WRM telephoned that he had observed a dead fish in the waters of Lauritzen Canal, and a grey matter floating in the water. This was relayed to H.E.Pintler by HCK at about 1050. Pintler said that Wardens Gall or Kemp would inspect the area, and tentative arrangements were made for a rendezvous with the Wardens and the Regional Board Personnel.

Between 1245 and 1330 WRM and HCK observed Lauritzen Canal waters. 10 to 12 sand striped bass, most of them 8 to 10 inches long and one about 14 inches long, were observed. A minnow was seen swimming adjacent to these dead fish. Two of the smaller striped bass were taken as specimens. The Lauritzen Canal waters were quite turbid by comparison with waters in the main Richmond Harbor Channel. A brownish, flocculent material was suspended in the water; this matter was similar in appearance to a dispersed oil-water-dirt emulsion. A solvent, which smelled similar to toluene or benzine, was floating on the water in the northern two-thirds of the Canal, and this was more noticeable in the United-Huckathorn side of the Canal. The solvent layer was sufficiently thick that it coated HCK's hand upon retrieving the specimen fish referred to above.

These findings were briefly discussed with H.E.Pintler by phone at approximately 1240. Pintler suggested that the specimen fish be taken to the BSE laboratory for the following, in the order shown:

1. Removal of a specimen of the fish for analysis for insecticides.
2. Preservation of the remainder of the specimens with formalin for possible future examination, probably by Dr. Sknen, of Castro Valley, apparently a consultant to the Dept. of Fish and Game. Pintler said he understood that Wardens Gall and Kemp were at that time about to leave Berkeley Yacht Harbor with the TUNA.

Not suggested until after collection of samples from HCK storage
Between 1345 and 1430, WRM and HCK went to Brooks Island, and observed no dead fish in Richmond Harbor Channel, outside of Lauritzen Canal. When observations from Brooks Island failed to disclose the TUNA having left Berkeley Yacht Harbor, the R.B.'s personnel returned to Lauritzen Canal, confirmed previous observations, and terminated the field inspection.

WRM had obtained four liquid samples:

- 79425) Receiving waters with floating matter (solvent).
- 79426)
- 79429 Receiving waters with suspended matter.
- 79437 A discharge from a pipe under the United-Huckathorn wharf.

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One of the first pair of samples itemized above contained a fair amount of solvent similar in odor to that found on the waters of Lauritzen Canal.

WRM took the samples and the specimen fish to the Sanitation Laboratory of the State Health Dept.

at 1615, HCK requested A. N. Greenberg to analyze the samples as follows:

1. 79425) Endrin, dicofol, malathion, parathion, DDT, toxaphene,
 2. 79452) Aldrin, and the six or other seven substances (as a secondary interest) of which evidence had been found in the United-Heckathorn drum yard on 22 May 1957 (see notes of that date in the Fish Kill file). The laboratory was also requested to identify the solvent in these samples.
- C. 79429) Analyzed as above, excluding solvent identification.
 D. 79867)

Fish

6-12-60 Fish The seven insecticides listed above opposite 79425 and 79452.

Mr. Greenberg stated that he would freeze the fish, rather than preserving them in formalin, and that samples for examination for the presence of insecticides could be taken later; HCK suggested that this should be checked after the results of the water analyses are known, and should be cleared with the Dept. of Fish and Game personnel, probably Mr. Pintler.

In a discussion with R.E. Pintler on the morning of June 13, he stated that he had observed Lauritzen Canal and other waters near Richmond Harbor on the morning of Saturday, Jun. 11. He said he observed 10 dead fish near the Ford plant in Richmond, and that the Dept. had received reports of small fish kills from the Alviso area and the Carquinez Straits area. Pintler said he suspects that the dead fish may not be the result of a waste discharge, but rather spawning deaths. He said he observed several fishermen, catching fish, along the shore of San Francisco Bay between Richmond Harbor Channel and the University of California pier near Stauffer Chemical Company.

HCK/lek
 Attachment
 6/14/60